GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2778
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2017
Cases of Witch Hunting
Poddar Smt. Aparupa

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that many tribal women are being killed in different parts of the country by being branded as 'witch' by local miscreants;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of such incidents reported during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise including Assam;

(c) whether the Government has initiated any awareness programme/ campaign against such practices on its ownor encouraged the States to do so, especially in rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the expenditure incurred so far in this regard during the said period, State/UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF SATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI JASWANTSINH BHABHOR)

(a) & (b): As informed by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the specific information pertaining to tribal women is not available with the Bureau.However, as per available information, a total of 161 cases in 2013, 160 cases in 2014 and 136 cases in 2015 were reported in which persons were killed due to witchcraft (includes cases reported under murder (Section 302 IPC) and culpable homicide not amounting to murder (Section 304 IPC)).State/UT-wise, including Assam, total number of cases of murder (Section 302 IPC) and culpable homicide not amounting to murder (Section 304 IPC) under witchcraft during 2013-2015 are given atAnnexure. As informed by NCRB, data for the year 2016 is under collection.

(c)& (d): As per the seventh schedule, "police" and "public order" are the State subjects under the Constitution and as such the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crimes including witch-hunting, lies with the State Government/Union Territory Administrations. National Commission for Women (NCW) conducts seminars and workshops from time to time to create awareness on the issue and discourage such practices.
Also, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) {PoA} Act, 1989 as amended, prescribes punishment for causing physical harm or mental agony of a member of a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe on the allegation of practicing witchcraft or being a witch. As the responsibility of implementation of PoA Act primarily lies with the State Governments / UT Administrations, action has to be taken by them to effectively implement provisions of this Act.As regards expenditure incurred, while releasing grants to States under Article 275(1) of the Constitution and Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan, Ministry of Tribal Affairs has advised the States that at least 30% of the total beneficiaries should be women/ girls.

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Annexure referred to part (a) & (b) of LokSabhaUnstarred Question No. 2778 for 20.3.2017
State/UT-wise cases registered under murder (section 302 IPC) and culpable homicide not amounting to murder (section 304 IPC) due to witchcraft during 2013-2015
Sl. No. State/UT 2013 2014 2015
Murder (section 302 IPC) Culpable homicide not amounting to murder (section 304 IPC) Total (Murder & Culpable homicide not amounting to murder) Murder (section 302 IPC) Culpable homicide not amounting to murder (section 304 IPC) Total (Murder & Culpable homicide not amounting to murder) Murder (section 302 IPC) Culpable homicide not amounting to murder (section 304 IPC) Total (Murder & Culpable homicide not amounting to murder)
1 Andhra Pradesh 15 0 15 2 0 2 1 0 1
2 Arunachal Pradesh 2 0 2 0 0 0 0 0 0
3 Assam 6 0 6 0 0 0 0 0 0
4 Bihar 0 0 0 6 0 6 2 0 2
5 Chhattisgarh 7 0 7 16 0 16 10 0 10
6 Goa 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
7 Gujarat 4 0 4 10 0 10 13 0 13
8 Haryana 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
9 Himachal Pradesh 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
10 Jammu & Kashmir 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1
11 Jharkhand 54 1 55 47 0 47 32 0 32
12 Karnataka 0 0 0 0 0 0 3 0 3
13 Kerala 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0

14 Madhya Pradesh 11 0 11 24 0 24 20 0 20
15 Maharashtra 10 0 10 5 0 5 5 0 5
16 Manipur 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
17 Meghalaya 8 0 8 1 1 2 0 0 0
18 Mizoram 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
19 Nagaland 1 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0
20 Odisha 24 0 24 32 0 32 26 0 26
21 Punjab 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
22 Rajasthan 1 0 1 1 0 1 1 0 1
23 Sikkim 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
24 Tamil Nadu 16 0 16 0 0 0 0 0 0
25 Telangana 0 8 0 8 14 0 14
26 Tripura 1 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 1
27 Uttar Pradesh 0 0 0 3 2 5 3 0 3
28 Uttarakhand 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
29 West Bengal 0 0 0 1 0 1 2 0 2
TOTAL STATE(S) 160 1 161 156 4 160 133 1 134
30 A & N Islands 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 0 2
31 Chandigarh 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
32 D&N Haveli 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
33 Daman & Diu 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
34 Delhi UT 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
35 Lakshadweep 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
36 Puducherry 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
TOTAL UT(S) 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 0 2
TOTAL (ALL INDIA) 160 1 161 156 4 160 135 1 136
Source: Crime in India, National Crime Records Bureau